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WRL NEWS

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WRI RALLIES SECTIONS ON CAMBODIA

Following receipt of an urgent cable from David McReynolds, the War Resisters International has alerted its sections throughout the world to protest Nixon's extending the Vietnam war into Cambodia.

"The invasion of Cambodia by U.S. and South Vietnamese forces is an outrage," said WRI Chairman Michael Randle in a statement to all WRI sections. "Morally it is indefensible; politically it makes no sense. The hopeful thing is that this new act of aggression has started protest throughout the length and breadth of the U.S.

"WRI groups in other countries are urged to do what they can to support this opposition. Protest could take the form of demonstrations at American embassies, at firms such as Dow Chemical, sympathy strikes at colleges and universities, direct action against governments such as the British government which give active or passive support to the U.S. and a campaign of intensive activity at American bases where soldiers and airmen can be urged to refuse to fight in Vietnam."

PEACE OFFICE RAIDED—FILES STOLEN

On the night of May 7—just a year, less two days, after the raid on the former WRL office on Beekman Street—the office of the New York Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, 15 East 17 Street, was raided by persons unknown.

In the WRL onslaught, only the mailing list was stolen, but in this latest one, in addition to the files, the intruders robbed all the office equipment—typewriters, mimeograph machines, etc. So the Committee is seeking contributions to put its office into operation again, Also, if you were on the Committee's mailing list, please send them your name and address so that they can reconstitute their files.

Jane Addams House Gutted

Jane Addams House, the historic Philadelphia building which housed the Philadelphia Resistance, Women's International League for Peace & Freedom and United World Federalists, was completely gutted by a fire in the early morning hours of March 23.

When the firemen arrived, they found the Philadelphia Resistance office door, which had been locked the night before, open and financial files strewn about the floor. Though all The Resistance group's office equipment was destroyed in the blaze, the computerized mailing list was intact.

MAY 9—At Bus-Blockaded White House...

photo by John Goodwin

. . . over 100,000 demonstrators rally to protest the invasion of Cambodia. Intent on bringing the protest directly to President Nixon, New Mobe insisted on—and at the last minute won—the right to demonstrate adjacent to the White House rather than at the Washington Monument, scene of the November 15 mobilization. Spurring the protest action were the spreading, nationwide student strikes and the May 6 murder by national guardsmen of four Kent State University students. Nonviolent discipline was maintained by the marshals. The increasingly popular WRL "Practice Nonviolence" tags were seen throughout the crowd.

HONORARY CO-CHAIRMEN

Tracy D. Mygatt and Frances Witherspoon, activists in the WRL since its founding in 1923, have been named honorary co-chairmen of the League.

They are contemporaries of Jessie Wallace Hughan, the League's founder and a pioneer in the pacifist movement, who died in 1955. In the March-April 1969 WRL NEWS Frances Witherspoon wrote an interesting article on the world war 1 amnesty campaign in which she participated. Both she and Tracy Mygatt were for many years on the League's executive committee. At present they are retired.

XUM

ORGANIZING NOTES

by Jerry Coffin

This column is now a regular feature in WRL NEWS. In it I'll give brief sketches of what actions and projects local WRL groups are involved in. For more detailed reports of these local WRL actions and projects read WIN Magazine. In addition the WRL produces a frequent though irregular organizer's information packet which is available to local organizers. Write me for details. Finally, we've produced two Action Outlines for use in the current period.

Anti-Draft Week (March 16-21) saw *WRL West, Boston WRL, Atlanta Workshop in Nonviolence, Canton WRL, Delaware WRL, Columbus WRL, Albany WRL,* and *Albuquerque WRL* all organizing major anti-draft actions. Particular mention should be made of the *Albany WRL* which organized Albany's first civil disobedience action. Thirty people were committed to possible arrest (16 were ultimately arrested for blocking the doors of the Albany draft board offices) and several hundred people stood in a supporting rally.

Repression is hitting us all and it came down on *Delaware WRL* with a vengeance. On March 14 at a Conspiracy support rally, police attacked the nonviolent demonstrators singling out *Ed Sohodski,* our Delaware organizer for beatings and arrest on a variety of charges. For details see WIN Magazine (May 1, 1970). *Delaware* WRL publishes an excellent tri-weekly newsletter *On the Other Side.* Write 530 Tamara Circle, Newark, Delaware 19711 and send five dollars for a year's subscription. *Delaware* WRL also recently raised the level of their struggle against the warmaking state by organizing demonstrations at the Hercules Inc. stockholders' meeting. Hercules is the 35th largest defense contractor.

Canton WRL has begun publishing a community newspaper "The Peoples Press." In addition to Anti-Draft Week they organized on April 15 the largest peace rally ever held in the area. Their high school organizing work continues. The recent murder of students at neighboring Kent State (where several Canton WRL people attend) has caused a tremendous upsurge of activity among our Canton members.

Albuquerque WRL is our best news this time. The people there are in constant activity around the draft, war tax resistance, Chicano rights and other issues. Craig Simpson of Albuquerque tells me that current plans include a weekend conference on nonviolence. The national office is now working on a conference outline for use by all our local groups.

Next issue will cover more of what's happening at the local level. The League is urging our members to get active in their local communities. If you wish to form a local WRL Action Center write to me for the flyer "Nonviolence is More." The League will help in whatever way we can your local organizing work.

MARCH 19—Draft Board Shutdown . . .

photo by Bradford Lyttle

. . . in New York where 182 demonstrators including several prominent persons and WRL staff members were arrested. Total number of arrests in similar demonstrations across the country that day totaled more than 500. Because these demonstrations were genuinely decentralized in an effort to reach out to Middle America, they were sketchily reported by the press which has become conditioned to massive protests in a single city.

Particularly impressive was the demonstration at Syracuse, N.Y., where 3000 students joined in blocking an induction bus and spontaneously rejected the chant "Off the Pigs!" in favor of "Join Us!" (At John Jay College in New York City, where most undergraduates are city policemen, six patrolmen, three sergeants and a lieutenant recently did join an anti-war picket line.)

"The March anti-draft protests were, in effect, only a kind of dry run for the kind of nonviolent action which must take place as the war spreads throughout Indo China," commented WRL Field Secretary David McReynolds. "Induction centers CAN be blocked. People CAN act, without bombs or violence, to stop the machinery of war."

ENROLLMENT BLANK

Send to War Resisters League
339 Lafayette Street, N. Y., N.Y. 10012

WAR IS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY.
I THEREFORE AM DETERMINED NOT TO SUPPORT ANY KIND OF WAR, INTERNATIONAL OR CIVIL, AND TO STRIVE FOR THE REMOVAL OF ALL THE CAUSES OF WAR

signature _____

address _____

city _____

state _____ *zip code*

CHOPPY WATERS OUT WEST

by Paul Obluda

The Scene: aboard the frail bark Extended Metaphor, somewhere off the coast of San Francisco, Cambodia Day, 1970. We've been rowing like hell through choppy waters the past couple of months here in the WRL/West ship. For a time there was some fear that we might go under when Randy Kehler, one of our leading oarsmen in a coxswainless cockleshell, was snatched away to spend two years at the Federal Prison in Safford, Arizona, over his opposition to the draft. But somehow we managed to keep together and work pretty well.

From time to time we glance back over our shoulders at the distant breakers and wonder how we'll get through them when the time comes, but there remains a slight optimism that we will reach the beautiful land one day, somehow. Tonight we got a bit of a jolt. The tide seems to be going out at one devil of a pace and we find ourselves losing ground. Seems we're in wars all over the place despite all the effort that's gone on lately.

What to do? Well, to begin with we can drop the metaphor. Tonight within two hours after the blood-chilling Nixon spate of lies had plopped on us, we managed to get 75 people to show up for a peaceful vigil at the Federal Building. About all we did was walk off a little frustration. All around us at the local campuses the tear gas is blowing. About all we have to offer right now is an intensification of what we've been doing with heavy emphasis on tax refusal. Sunday, May 3, we held a meeting of those who are serious enough to work hard on War Tax Resistance as a means of ending the war and beginning the nonviolent revolution.

What WRL/West is Doing

Our tax drive began March 1 and most of the month was devoted to building toward April 15. We helped in a small way in anti-draft week work—with some success—as the government shut down the San Francisco boards for the whole week. There were March anti-tax demonstrations at several cities in the Bay Area.

On April 15 there were eight northern California demonstrations. About 300 turned out at the San Francisco phone office to march to the IRS headquarters in the Federal Building. There WRL held a short rally with around 1200 present, and we called for serious work on making tax refusal a mass movement. We then joined in a large rally of about 25,000 a block away at the Civic Center.

It's still impossible to tell how many people held out all or part of their tax this year, but the telephone tax refusal program clearly took a huge jump. I would guess that several hundred people in this area took the serious step of some form of income tax refusal this year. In terms of interest and effort expended this year over last, the jump was a quantum jump—at least a thousand times more energy and enthusiasm flowed than a year ago, when tax resistance was at a low ebb.

Our efforts now will be to make this potentially revolutionary act the basis of finding some alternative to a life based on fear and death. We hope as a poor beginning to have small groups donate their phone tax to projects that are strangling for lack of money, things like Black Panther breakfasts and free schools.

Early in April two of us were arrested for distributing leaflets peacefully inside the Federal Building. If convicted, we plan to appeal on the free speech issue with, we hope, the help of ACLU.

Despite this heavy emphasis on tax refusal, WRL-West managed to step up its program of working in high schools to tell young men they need not register for the draft or can escape it in other ways. We placed our light-sound show in dozens of schools and made many presentations of a new and very popular mock trial in which Charlie Quinn, a real non-registrant is tried before various school classes. We managed to keep up this work despite threats of arrest from certain school officials.

Draft cases continue to pour into the San Francisco district courts, with over a third of the federal cases in this category. Sentences are growing more lenient, a startling contrast to the increasing repression evident everywhere else. The reason is the steady, unrelenting, nonviolent pressure of young men of principle appearing, often without attorneys, to explain their position. Typical sentences now are one year for non-registration with the judge promising to get the man out inside four months. One man was hauled out of prison after 42 days and had the rest of his sentence suspended by a judge who has slowly and steadily softened in his attitude.

WRL-West turned out another five hundred study kits about nonviolence, all hand block-printed and neatly laid out as we continue to try to sell or give away material about our ideas. Most of the people who are interested in this seem to be very poor and we give away more than we sell of the kit of basic material about nonviolence. We sponsored another "peace game" in the mountains south of here, and staged some demonstrations at places like the Honeywell offices. We toted up the year's expenditures and found that we are broke, and that we spent $6000 last year for everything including salaries.

At the end of May we held our second annual gathering for the public to show through exhibits and pictures and actions some of the things a nonviolent way of life can mean. Last year we called it: A Gently Exploding Galaxy—A Nonconference on Nonviolence. This year with the emphasis on new life styles and heavy shows of new ways of eating, cooking, making things, and doing things, we are going along with the trend in more outlandish names.

Atmosphere of Violence

Meanwhile all around is violence. The waves are getting higher and higher.

Berkeley and Stanford have been on the verge of explosion. Pacifists, many of them WRL members and sympathizers, put themselves about 200 strong between police and protestors at UC Berkeley to prevent violence in a demonstration, one of many, over ROTC. They got some rocks thrown at them but were successful for a time in keeping the violence down. But Berkeley is now a powder keg with a steady series of potentially deadly confrontations nearly every day, and the battle lines seem too clearly drawn to have much hope that pacifists can go on taking the terrible risks that imposing their bodies entails.

Stanford has erupted into another Berkeley in recent nights with brutal San Francisco Tactical Squad police joining in the student hunt for the first time, and tear gas used for the first time at Stanford. Tonight there was a rally of over 5000 Stanford students calling for a nationwide student strike—or indeed an international student strike to scream out the rage and frustration that came down with the blatant Nixon announcement that he has led us into war in yet another helpless, neutral nation.

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AFTER THE CAMBODI

by David M

I was largely responsible for the WRL analysis of June, 1968 — "After the Spring Mobilization—What?" — which contained the optimistic statement that "In our view the U.S. is phasing out the war." The war is still going, has been re-escalated, and my only defense of that earlier optimism was a belief in some rationality on the part of the government. The war was so irrational, so destructive to the gold balance, to U.S. alliances around the world, and to our internal peace, that I had, not illogically, assumed the Establishment would cut its losses and close down a bloody chapter in the history of military intervention.

I must hope that if I was too optimistic then, I am too pessimistic now. Nixon, in the last year, has made two basic points regarding his Asian policy. First, we were engaged in withdrawing from Vietnam through a process of "Vietnamization," and this process of turning over the war to the Vietnamese would continue even if we saw no progress at the negotiating table. Second, and this was the "Guam Doctrine," we would no longer act as the policeman of Asia. We would send in supplies but no men in the event of further Asian troubles—Asia must keep its own house in order. In mid-April Nixon assured us we were on the verge of victory. On April 30, ten days later, he went on television to announce his unilateral decision to invade Cambodia. This analysis is not concerned with picking apart Nixon's speeches. It is concerned with what I feel to be the implications of these speeches and the crisis that now faces the nation.

Crisis in Vietnam

First, the theory of Vietnamization is dead. If the Vietnamese could not handle for themselves the dangers posed by Communist base camps along the border, can they sesiously be expected to do better six months from now? If, more than a year after the Vietnamization program had been launched, we have to invade a neutral country to protect the Vietnamese, then clearly the program is dead. Second, if, faced by the internal crisis in Cambodia, we determine that American troops by the thousands must cross the border in an effort to seize supplies and, hopefully, prevent a complete Communist takeover, then where is the Guam Doctrine of Asia policing its own territory? Dead. The Vietnamese remain militarily unreliable and we remain prepared to respond to threats to our position in Asia by the use of troops.

I note in passing that while the NLF has "rest and recreation" centers and supply depots in Cambodia, we have them in Hong Kong and Japan and Hawaii and our assertion of the right to interfere with *their* sanctuaries, while denying to them the legal right to interfere with *our* sanctuaries, is further proof of the "bully psychology" that dominates this government. Again, in the case of our brief resumption of bombing North Vietnam, we insist on the right to fly planes over North Vietnam and justified our bombing because we thought that *maybe* if we didn't knock out their anti-aircraft they would shoot at our planes. But we deny the North Vietnamese the similar right to fly over our territory in South Vietnam. This same attitude of a moral double standard applies in the emotion-laden question of prisoners of war. In the South we kill some prisoners and turn the others over to the South Vietnamese, who either kill them or hold them under inhuman conditions. The *Readers Digest*, Mr. Perot and reactionary congressmen raise no protest. But they feel they have the right to lodge protests because the North Vietnamese hold captive our airmen. At least they haven't shot them—the fate of many North Vietnamese captured by our troops. A final passing note: Nixon has been gradually raising the number of Vietnamese that will be killed when we leave, from 50,000 to "hundreds of thousands" to "millions." Historically he is inaccurate. The actions of North Vietnam during the early fifties were murderously direct toward about 50,000 peasants, who were killed. That blood bath—or the more recent and debatable slaughter that occurred at Hue when the Communists held that city during the Tet offensive—pale into nothing when ranked beside the massive and daily slaughter our government brings to Vietnam. It is not a case of pacifists defending the actions of Vietnamese Communists, but of pointing out that the evils of our own government in Vietnam are monstrously greater.

The real crisis in Vietnam does not, however, relate either to these points made in passing, nor to the collapse of the Guam Doctrine and the Vietnamization theory. It has to do with the constitutional crisis, the most profound to confront this country since the Civil War. Nixon did not inform the Cambodians of his planned actions. He did not consult Congress. He conferred with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and simply invaded another country. This does not pose something as simple as a constitutional dispute between the Executive and Legislative Branches of the government, but implies something far more sinister—a struggle between the non-elective Pentagon and the Congress, with Nixon acting not as his own man, but as the agent of the military. In the same way, Agnew ought not to be blamed for his inflammatory speeches—we ought to realize that every one of these speeches was written by the White House staff. And what an extraordinary collection of speeches they are: Agnew/Nixon have attacked the television networks and media—and intimidated them in the process—and waged verbal war on the entire younger generation. The speeches have included demands for the ouster of the President of Yale, bitter comments directed to Mayor Lindsay, and a slashing attack on Senator Fulbright. During the height of the McCarthy period, when Nixon was personally delivering the speeches he now writes for Agnew, the invective was rarely so strong, and never so personal. One is tempted to suggest that Nixon's character does not mellow with age but simply rots.

Crisis in U.S.

The nation as a whole, particularly after Kent, confronts an Administration which sought first with words and then with jail terms and finally with bullets to silence the democratic process. So great has been the public rage following the Kent massacre that Nixon is now fumbling in desperation for some way to calm the public, but hopefully none of us will ever forget that the first comments by Nixon and Agnew amounted to full support of those murders and no regret at all. That the statements were obscene is true—more important, those statements implied the government would carry through with further murders to maintain power.

The extraordinary public reaction forced the President to turn around, to try to calm with words the public, while

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A INVASION—WHAT?

cReynolds

continuing with military force his policy in Indo China. As a result of the government's misjudging the public, we face the most profound internal crisis since the period of unrest in the early 1930's. I would suggest we keep the following points in mind in relating to this unrest.

First, while many—including myself—believe in the voting process, will vote in November, etc., elections are only a way of drawing off the power of the movement unless they reflect the feeling shown in the streets. The establishment is like Pharaoh, eager at last to promise the children of Israel anything if only the plagues will cease. But if the plagues cease, we can be certain the armies will turn and pursue us as we flee. The student strike is important because students are important. They constitute a class within society, a grouping without which the establishment cannot operate. Who, after all, will man the computers and do the scientific research and provide the sociological information needed to run a society as complex as this? Thirty years ago a lot of the men who headed our society had never been to college. Today even a B.A. is not enough—everyone needs graduate work. Adults may hate the students and be willing to kill a handful—but they simply cannot risk killing or alienating too many. That is why the student strike terrifies them, and why such concessions are being made.

Must Enlist Workers and Blacks

Second, students cannot by themselves overturn the system—they can only go a long way towards paralyzing it. Workers as a whole oppose the students, are envious of their position of power, hostile to their life style, and tend to accept the old symbols of "flag and country." Worse yet, the leadership of the AFL-CIO has become a part of the white establishment. George Meany is a product of the very Building Trades Unions whose members roamed through lower Manhattan on May 8, beating up students and women. Yet the workers of America suffer more from the war than those groups—such as students—that so vocally oppose it. The men who are drafted are rarely college kids, but young workers. The real wages of workers have been drifting slowly down as inflation eats away every wage increase. The wave of strikes and strike threats suggest the pressure on workers. Therefore it is important to make some appeal to working people, in language that lays special stress on the costs of the war and not just on moral questions.

Third, the black American does not yet see a link with the peace movement and in some colleges the blacks voted against the strike, arguing that they desperately needed an education and while a student strike would be a lark for white kids, it might mean the end of the college careers for black kids. The tragic slaughters in Augusta and in Jackson are examples of how those who hold power unwittingly use it to help the powerless—students and blacks—see a joint cause. But there can be no "joint cause" if we think black Americans will join a "white peace movement." For many black Americans the army means a job and a chance at training to be used in civilian life. If the war in Indo China is brought to an end it will be partly because of a broad coalition of Americans against that war. Blacks will not join that coalition unless the end of the war is linked to a determination to shift our national priorities from making war to making a decent life possible for poor blacks and poor whites. In short, peace is not enough—we need a social revolution.

Fourth, in discussing where we go now we need to discuss violence in a very pragmatic way and not simply repeat the valid points that violence is dehumanizing. The violence of the present system is also dehumanizing and there comes a time when younger people may choose the dehumanization of being violent toward the system, rather than the dehumanization of allowing the system to continue to be violent toward them. It is true that absolute power corrupts, but it is no less true that absolute powerlessness also corrupts. If we want to avoid violence we must point out the reality that our movement—not just the WRL, but the whole of the peace movement—is disarmed. As Nixon might very well put it: "Let me make one thing perfectly clear. We of the ruling junta are armed, and make no mistake about that. Those of you in the peace movement—and I know that not all of you are bums and that some of you are sincere in your mistakes—are not armed. That is a fact. We are prepared to use our weapons against you if you try anything violent—like throwing four letter words at us—and that, as Kent/Augusta/Jackson proves, is also a fact."

"Nonviolence . . . The Only Real Weapon"

Violence within the movement divides Americans that might be united otherwise, frightening many toward support of the Pentagon and of Nixon. When one side is heavily armed and one side is virtually disarmed, nonviolence is not only philosophically correct, but becomes the only real weapon open to those who want to change the system. It is not true, as some like Irving Howe have tried to suggest, that our only weapon is to fight within the system and work for peace candidates. We've had enough experience by now with "working within the system" to know this is no different from an earlier period in our own history when most anti-slavery radicals confined their actions to voting, every two years, for candidates who would abolish slavery, while the institution itself continued. In fact, the compromises of the electoral process too often kept even that direct an issue off the ballot—too often the best we could do is vote for candidates who would modify or limit slavery. Just as today it is hard to find a candidate who will make any basic challenge to the military—we are only given a choice of candidates who will limit the war without ending it.

Finally, it is impossible to know how far things will have gone when this reaches you. The crisis may ease suddenly, or it may deepen swiftly. As this is written on May 15 the police in Boston are reported to have rampaged in the student area; the military has cancelled public events for Armed Forces Day; Harvard students plan massive nonviolent action to block induction buses; a call for a kind of general strike has been set for May 27; the University of Ohio has been taken over by troops and closed to students; the stock market continues a disastrous slide; committees to impeach Nixon have been formed around the country; and . . . the war continues without a pause.

In my own opinion our job is not to calm the crisis but to deepen it, nonviolently, so that the war simply has to end. During the invasion of Czechoslovakia the whole mass of the people were united because the invader was foreign. It is harder when the invader—in this case the Pentagon—is made up of our own citizens, and the threat to the constitution is located in the highest posts in the land. Still, the simple slogans the Czechoslovaks raised should be our own: NO PROVOCATION! NO COLLABORATION! NO COOPERATION!

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APRIL 15—Spirit of Boston Tea Party...

photo by Diana Davies

... is invoked in War Tax Resistance demonstration at New York's historic Battery Park Monument. From there, the demonstrators walked to Internal Revenue Service headquarters on Church Street where over 8000 persons participated in the biggest of the protest rallies held that day throughout the country. The Moratorium and Clergy and Laymen Concerned had agreed to focus that day on anti-war tax rallies.

"The preceding four months had witnessed the formation of about 120 tax resistance centers in local communities," said WTR Coordinator Bradford Lyttle. "At least 148,000 leaflets had been handed out and 3000 posters distributed. The posters—blowups of one of Life's graphic color photos of the Songmy massacre—were captioned: 'Your Tax Dollar At Work.'

"War Tax Resistance is presently a significant arm of the peace movement. Strategy for the coming year's campaign will be mapped at a conference June 6 at the New England CNVA farm (Voluntown, Conn.)."

CONFRONT COCA-COLA ON POLLUTION

In connection with Earth Day, though four days later, the Atlanta Workshop in Nonviolence led a motorcade to the international headquarters of Coca-Cola to confront top officials about the litter from non-deposit bottles, cans and cartons.

At the entrance to the plant, the demonstrators met J. Paul Austin, international company president and Fred Dixon, president of Coca-Cola U.S.A. and illustrated their point by depositing in front of them several plastic bags of cans and non-returnable bottles.

"The burden of getting rid of bottles and things like that should be on the producer and not on the consumer," a spokesman for the demonstration said. Austin, who had issued a pious Earth Day anti-pollution statement, disagreed.

Before leaving, the demonstrators carefully picked up the litter which they had brought to illustrate their anti-pollution logic.

"War — Earth's Number One Polluter"

So proclaimed the placard above WRL's Earth Day booth on New York's 14th Street, which along with Fifth Avenue was closed to vehicular traffic for the occasion. Featured at the booth was the leaflet, "Give Earth A Chance," the special ecology issue of WIN, a selection of anti-draft literature and peace buttons (the most popular item).

War Tax Resistance manned a separate booth featuring literature on that issue.

FIRST GRAPE PILGRIMAGE IN EAST

The first Pilgrimage in the east to support California grape workers' organizational struggle ended May 3 with a rally addressed by Cesar Chavez at the Department of Agriculture in Washington. Previous Pilgrimages in the "farm workers' nonviolent struggle for liberation" had led to the state capitals of Texas, Oregon, Wisconsin and Michigan, the leaflets recalled. This one climaxed in Washington "to tell Strikebreaker Nixon and his Defense Department to stop buying the grapes of wrath."

Delegations from as far north as Montreal and as far west as Pittsburgh came to join the 3-day walk from Baltimore in which the slogan "Viva la Huelga" and "Don't Buy Scab Grapes" resounded for the first time along eastern highways. Igal Roodenko and Jim Peck represented WRL on the Pilgrimage.

STUDENTS WALK 65 MILES TO PROTEST MURDERS

Wilmington College students initiated a 65-mile walk to Columbus to protest the May 6 slaying by national guardsmen of Allison Krause, Jeffrey Miller, Sandra Scheuer and William Schroeder at Kent State University.

"They got the idea, they marched the 65 miles and they set the tone of nonviolence which characterized the entire protest action," writes Lara Gara, longtime WRLer and a professor at Wilmington College. "It was incredible. I walked about 27 miles with them and took part in the final Columbus demonstration at which a protest was delivered to Governor Rhodes, the man who ordered the troops to Kent State."

* * *

The WRL office closed on the morning of May 7 so that the entire staff could attend the mass funeral service of Jeffrey Miller, one of the four murdered Kent State students.

HOLD LABOR DAY WEEKEND...

. . . for the second national WRL conference to be held, probably, in Michigan. The exact location and other specifics will be sent you at a later date and printed in the next WRL NEWS.

Prior to 1968, WRL held its annual conferences in the east—and still does hold one such get-together (this year's is the weekend of June 12-14 at Hudson Guild Farm, Andover, New Jersey). But these conferences never were nationwide. The first national WRL conference was held in 1968 at Denver, Colorado. Since then, hundreds of new members have joined. The Labor Day Conference will give them an opportunity to meet one another and to discuss strategy in the present crisis situation.

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